

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 84ISLAMA011114

ADP531  
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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 11114 01 OF 03 210824Z  
ACTION RP-10

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R 210819Z MAY 84  
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5875  
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMCONSUL KARACHI  
AMCONSUL LAHORE  
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 03 ISLAMABAD 11114

DEPT FOR RP DAS DEWEY, RP/ASIA AND NEA/PAB

AID FOR FVA/FFP AND ASIA/PNS

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: SREF, PK, AF

SUBJECT: KEY GOP OFFICIALS' TOUR D'HORIZON  
WITH DAS DEWEY

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 1964

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE CONTAINS HIGHLIGHTS OF  
CONVERSATIONS THAT RP DAS ARTHUR E. DEWEY HAD WITH  
KEY GOP REFUGEE OFFICIALS IN ISLAMABAD MAY 6. DAS  
DEWEY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY RP/ASIA DIRECTOR HARRY  
BLANEY AND RFP ROBERT LUNEBURG. DAY STARTED WITH  
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 11114 01 OF 03 210824Z

2 1/2 HOUR BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION WITH BRIG (RET)  
SAID AZHAR, CHIEF COMMISSIONER FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES.  
IN AFTERNOON DAS DEWEY MET WITH SYED MUNIR HUSAIN,  
CHIEF SECRETARY OF THE STATES AND FRONTIER REGIONS  
DIVISION (SAFRON) AND COL. A.M. BABAR, JOINT  
SECRETARY OF SAFRON. THE CONVERSATIONS COVERED A  
BROAD RANGE OF TOPICS INCLUDING REFUGEE NUMBERS,  
REFUGEE RELIEF, COST OF THE PROGRAM, EDUCATION, AND  
TRANSPORTATION

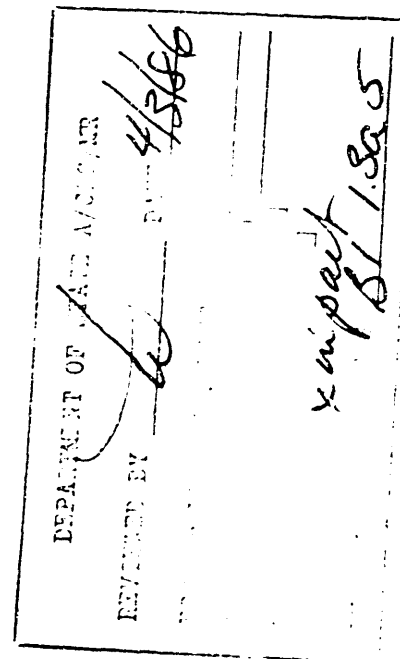
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DAS DEWEY

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STRESSED NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE COST AND SYSTEMS ANALYSIS OF ALL ASPECTS OF REFUGEE RELIEF TRANSPORTATION AND STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF PROGRAM CREDIBILITY. HE ASSURED THE GOP OFFICIALS OF CONTINUED WHOLEHEARTED USG SUPPORT OF THE PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

3. REFUGEE NUMBERS. BRIG AZHAR WAS MORE THAN WILLING TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT OFFICIAL REFUGEE FIGURES COULD BE AS MUCH AS TEN TO FIFTEEN PERCENT INFLATED. THE GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO REDUCE THE INFLATION BUT IT IS A VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEM BECAUSE OF THE MOBILITY OF THE REFUGEE POPULATION, AND BECAUSE OF SOCIAL FACTORS.

AZHAR SAID THAT THE "NUMBERS GAME" IS NOT ALL THAT IMPORTANT, AS WHETHER THERE ARE 2.5 OR 3 MILLION REFUGEES IN CAMPS, THERE ARE 3 MILLION REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN. AZHAR BELIEVES THERE ARE BETWEEN 200,000 AND 400,000 UNREGISTERED AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN. HE NOTED THAT IN THE NWFP REFUGEE POPULATION IS VERY DENSE IN CERTAIN AREAS AND IN THE PROVINCE AS A WHOLE THE RATIO OF REFUGEES TO LOCAL POPULATION IS 1:6. IN SOME AGENCIES (KURRAM, BAJAUR) THE REFUGEES ACTUALLY OUTNUMBER THE LOCAL POPULATION. HE GAVE A  
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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 11114 01 OF 03 210824Z

ROUGH ESTIMATE OF THE LOCATION OF REFUGEES AS FOLLOWS:  
2.058 MILLION IN NWFP, 712,000 IN BALUCHISTAN, AND 86,000 IN THE PUNJAB.

4. REFUGEE RELIEF. BRIG. AZHAR REVIEWED THE RELIEF SITUATION FOR HIS VISITORS. TURNING TO THE MONTHLY MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (RS. 50 PER HEAD, WITH A MAXIMUM OF RS. 350 PER FAMILY PER MONTH), BRIG. AZHAR SOUGHT TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT IT IS PAID REGULARLY. HE THEN STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT-ACCEPTED FOOD RATION CONSISTS OF 500 GRAMS OF WHEAT, 30 GRAMS OF VEGOIL, 30 GRAMS OF DSM, 20 GRAMS OF SUGAR AND 3 GRAMS OF TEA. EACH REFUGEE PERSON NEEDS 15 LITERS OF WATER PER DAY. EACH CAMP NEEDS A PRIMARY SCHOOL. LOCAL HOSPITALS AND CLINICS THROUGHOUT THE REFUGEE-IMPACTED AREA HAVE BEEN EXPANDED TO ACCOMMODATE REFUGEES AND ARE CONTINUALLY OVERCROWDED.

5. COSTS OF THE REFUGEE PROGRAM. THE TOTAL COST OF THE REFUGEE PROBLEM IS APPROXIMATELY DOLS 400,000,000; MORE THAN A MILLION DOLLARS A DAY. BRIG. AZHAR SAID THAT THE GOP BEARS ABOUT HALF OF THIS COST. HE HAS ALREADY HAD MEETINGS WITH UNHCR CHIEF OF MISSION GERALD WALZER TO DISCUSS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE 1985 REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. THE GOP AND UNHCR ARE STILL FORMULATING THE PARAMETERS OF THE PROGRAM AND NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN. THE AVERAGE PER CAPITA MONTHLY EXPEND-

PAGE NO. 2

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1618

ITURE IS 50 RUPEES IN CASH, 70 RUPEES FOR FOOD, AND  
30 FOR OTHER RELIEF ASSISTANCE, FOR A TOTAL VALUE OF  
150 RUPEES (APPROXIMATELY 12 DOLLARS) PER REFUGEE PER  
MONTH. BRIG. AZHAR EMPHASIZED THAT THIS IS A VERY LOW  
COST. RECAPITULATING THE OVERALL COST OF THE REFUGEES.  
BRIG. AZHAR INDICATED THAT 75 MILLION DOLLARS COMES  
FROM THE UNHCR, 134 MILLION FROM THE WFP, 70 MILLION  
FROM THE GOP FOR TRANSPORTATION, AND 135 MILLION FROM

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PAGE NO. 3

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1620

ADP537  
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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 11114 02 OF 03 210826Z  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 ISLAMABAD 11114

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THE GOP FOR CASH MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE. THE TOTAL,  
DOLS 414,000,000 IS THE FIGURE THAT THE GOP PUBLISHED  
IN THE PAPER ON REFUGEES PREPARED FOR THE APRIL 1984  
PARIS CONSORTIUM (SEE ISLAMABAD 6816).

5. EDUCATION.

-(A) EDUCATIONAL SURVEY. DEWEY ASKED AZHAR IF THERE  
IS ANY PROBLEM IN DOING A SURVEY OF EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.  
AZHAR SAID THAT EDUCATION HAS BEEN A RELATIVELY LOW  
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 11114 02 OF 03 210826Z

PRIORITY, BECAUSE OF LACK OF TIME TO UNDERTAKE  
SURVEYS. HE NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF VOLAGS AND THE  
UNHCR HAD DONE SMALLER EDUCATION SURVEYS, BUT EDUCA-  
TION NEEDS HAVE NOT BEEN SUBJECTED TO COMPREHENSIVE  
ANALYSIS. BRIG. AZHAR NOTED THAT ANY AGENCY CONDUCT-  
ING A SURVEY IN EDUCATION MUST GET THE PRIOR APPROVAL  
OF THE GOP.

-(B) REFUGEE SCHOOL POPULATION. EACH CAMP IS GIVEN

PAGE NO. 4

1621

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1622

A PRIMARY SCHOOL. THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES EMPLOYS 3,000 TEACHERS. 2,000 OF WHOM ARE AFGHAN AND 1,000 PAKISTANI. SOME STUDENTS ARE ADMITTED INTO LOCAL SCHOOLS IN THE HIGHER GRADES AND MORE SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR REFUGEES ARE NEEDED. POTENTIAL AND ACTUAL SCHOOL POPULATION PUTS CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE ON LOCAL RESOURCES.

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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 11114 02 OF 03 210826Z

(D) SAFRON DISCUSSIONS. AT SAFRON SYED MUNIR HUSAIN SAID THE GOP IS ESTABLISHING A PRIMARY SCHOOL IN EACH OF THE 350 RTV'S. DEWEY ASKED HIM ABOUT EDUCATION FOR GIRLS. THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT SOME GIRLS ARE ATTENDING THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUT VERY FEW. WITH RESPECT TO THE FREE UNIVERSITY PROJECT, THE SAFRON OFFICIALS SAID THAT LITTLE THOUGHT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO UNIVERSITY LEVEL TRAINING AND THEY BELIEVED SUCH A CONCEPT WOULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD BY ALL CONCERNED.

7. TRANSPORTATION. (A) TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS. BRIG. AZHAR ELABORATED ON THE ENORMOUS TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE AFGHAN REFUGEE PROGRAM AND THEIR TREMENDOUS COST TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN. HE SAID THAT 2,000 TONS OF FOOD ITEMS PER DAY MUST BE TRANSPORTED TO THE TOTAL OF 350 REFUGEE CAMPS. (COMMENT: THIS COMES TO A TOTAL OF 730,000 TONS PER ANNUM, AGAINST THE WFP FOOD BASKET OF LESS THAN 500,000 TONS PER ANNUM. AZHAR'S FIGURE IS CLEARLY EXAGGERATED. END COMMENT.) AZHAR SAID THAT TRUCK REQUIREMENTS AVERAGE 2 PER CAMP, OR 700 TRUCKS IN THE REFUGEE RELIEF FLEET. SO FAR THE GOP HAS ONLY 400 TRUCKS AND HOPES THAT DONORS WILL PROVIDE THE REST. AZHAR NOTED THAT THE DIFFERENCE PRESENTLY HAS TO BE MADE UP BY RENTING TRUCKS, AT 2 OR 3 TIMES WHAT IT COSTS TO RUN THE TRUCKS THAT HAVE BEEN DONATED (AND WHICH ARE ALL

PAGE NO. 5

1623

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1624

ADMINISTERED BY THE NLC). BRIG AZHAR NOTED THAT WHEN ~~THE~~  
THE TRUCKS ARE GIVEN TO THE REFUGEE PROGRAM, IT SUB-  
STANTIALLY REDUCES THE COST OF THE PROGRAM TO PAKISTAN.

(B) NEED FOR TRANSPORTATION SURVEY. DEWEY STATED  
THE NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE COST AND SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

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1625

PAGE NO. 6

1626

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ADP533  
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.....OF THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF REFUGEE RELIEF TRANSPORTA-  
.....TION: PRIVATE V. PUBLIC, RAIL V. TRUCK, NLC V.  
.....OTHER GOVERNMENT. THE GENERAL SAID THAT HE COULD  
.....PROVIDE US WITH ANY DATA WE NEEDED. DEWEY SAID THAT  
.....IT WOULD SEEM APPROPRIATE FOR THE WFP TO CONDUCT  
.....SUCH AN ANALYSIS. USING GOP SUPPLIED DATA. DEWEY  
.....SAID THAT SUCH AN ANALYSIS WOULD BE AN ESSENTIAL  
.....PREREQUISITE TO ANY U.S. CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL  
.....ASSISTANCE IN THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR. DEWEY SAID  
.....THAT HE HAD THAT TREVOR PAGE (WFP EMERGENCY UNIT  
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 11114 03 OF 03 210827Z

CHIEF) HAD ALLUDED TO SUCH A STUDY. BRIG. AZHAR  
SAID THAT PAGE DID NOT RAISE THIS ISSUE IN HIS TWO  
RECENT VISITS TO PAKISTAN, BUT ADDED THAT HIS OFFICE  
WOULD BE WILLING TO WORK WITH WFP TO PROVIDE TRANSPORT  
DATA FOR WFP TO ANALYZE.

(C) SAFRON OFFICIALS ON TRANSPORTATION. THE SAFRON  
OFFICIALS WERE MORE RECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA OF A  
TRANSPORT STUDY THAN WAS BRIG. AZHAR, ALTHOUGH THEY

PAGE NO. 7

1627

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1628

ALSO EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR TRUCK DONATIONS FROM ABROAD. DEWEY SAID THAT THE US WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE UNTIL A COST ANALYSIS HAD BEEN COMPLETED.

8. MEETING WITH CHIEF SECRETARY: SAFRON. AFTERNOON MAY 6. DEWEY, BLANEY AND LUNEBURG CALLED ON SYED MUNIR HUSAIN, CHIEF SECRETARY OF SAFRON. AFTER TOUCHING BRIEFLY ON SOME OF THE PROGRAM FACTS DISCUSSED WITH BRIG. AZHAR, THE CONVERSATIONS WITH SYED MUNIR (WHO HAS OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROGRAM) AND COL. BABAR TURNED TO FOOD NEEDS FOR 1984. SYED MUNIR SAID THAT WFP HAD SENT THE GOP A PROGRAM AGREEMENT (LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING) WHICH IN HIS TERMS WAS "DISTINCTLY UNSATISFACTORY" AND HAD BEEN REJECTED. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOP HAS BEEN FEEDING OVER 2.5 MILLION REFUGEES AND THAT IT WAS SIMPLY NOT POSSIBLE TO CUT BACK ON THE RATION SIZE OR THE NUMBER OF RATIONS. COL. BABAR STRESSED THE REFUGEES' NEED FOR MILK, AND STATED THAT THE DSM RATION SHOULD NOT BE CUT BACK. IN THE COURSE OF THIS CONVERSATION BOTH SYED MUNIR AND COL. BABAR UNDERLINED HOW LITTLE WAS BEING ASKED FOR THESE DESPERATE AND SUFFERING PEOPLE. DEWEY STRESSED THE NEED FOR A CREDIBLE PROGRAM. HE NOTED THAT THE

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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 11114 03 OF 03 210827Z

U.S. WOULD CONTINUE ITS WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT OF THE PROGRAM BUT THERE WAS SOME CONCERN THAT COMPETING DEMANDS, E.G. AFRICA, COULD CAUSE OTHER DONORS TO CUT BACK THEIR PLEDGES FOR 1984 -- PARTICULARLY WHERE DOUBTS EXISTED ABOUT A PROGRAM'S CREDIBILITY. AS OUR PROPORTION OF THE WHOLE PROGRAM WOULD THEN INCREASE, THERE WOULD BE UNDERSTANDABLE PROBLEMS WITH CONGRESS, WHICH LAYS GREAT EMPHASIS ON BOTH BURDEN-SHARING IN INTERNATIONAL CRISES AND THE INTEGRITY OF HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS. DAS COMMENT: THIS MEETING LAID DOWN THE IMPORTANT MARKER THAT THE U.S. IS A RELIABLE PARTNER IN THIS EXTRAORDINARY HUMANITARIAN EFFORT BUT ALSO NOT TO BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED. THE POINT WAS MADE THAT IT IS MORE IN PAKISTAN'S INTEREST THAN IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY'S TO MAINTAIN ROBUST INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT, AND THAT UNREALISTIC REFUGEE NUMBERS OR FOOD TONNAGE LEVELS COULD NEEDLESSLY JEOPARDIZE EFFECTIVE SUPPORT FOR WHAT, BY ANY COUNT, IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST REFUGEE POPULATION. END COMMENT.

9. THIS CABLE WAS CLEARED BY DAS DEWEY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM PAKISTAN. RATTRAY

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